Baltimore Sustainability Commission Waste Working Group Outreach Meeting Meeting Report

Date: June 17, 2008

Location: Department of Planning, 417 E. Fayette Street, 8th floor

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Subject: Waste Working Group Public Listening Session

Attendance: Brian Knight, Will Ellison, David Taylor, Gary Kennedy, Lenzie Johnson, Alan Cohen, Marc Shaener, Olivia Farrow, Hope Williams, Anne Colgan, Anne Draddy, Robin Davidov, Hugh Pocock, Mark Nilles, Beth Strommen, Aista Sampler, Darrell

Harris, Mike Fannon, Betty Bland-Thomas, Brett Buikema

Discussion: The purpose of this meeting was to familiarize participants with the Sustainability Commission and to share information and ideas about the issue of waste in Baltimore and it's relationship to the principals of sustainability. The main focus was the establishment of a Vision statement which will be presented at the June 24 Sustainability Commission Meeting.

Initial Vision Statement: Baltimore will be recognized as a national and international leader in the local reduction, reuse, and recycling of waste through the promotion of sustainable design, educated purchasing decisions, public outreach, and improved access while balancing human, environmental, and economic needs.

Second Version: Baltimore will be a leader in the transformation of waste into a resource through reduction, reuse, and recycling. Baltimore will promote sustainable design, educated purchasing decisions, public outreach, and improved access while balancing human, environmental, and economic needs.

Third Version: Baltimore will rethink (reverse) the way we think about waste and become a leader in the transformation of waste into a resource through reduction, reuse, and recycling.

Additional Ideas:

- What does waste mean? What is 'waste'?
- Re-consuming the embodied energy in products (train of energy)
- Packaging, composting, and collection of business waste
- Better incentives for sorting and recycling C&D waste (LEED requirements)
- Education
 - Literacy
 - Casual Litter
 - o Proper Waste Disposal (use of trash cans)
- Incentives for cleaning up your own neighborhood (Trash for Cash)
- Recycling containers next to every trash can (Receptacles at BWI)
- Diversion of waste from landfills through innovative processes

- Social responsibility of recycling and re-use
- The movement of waste from a disposal issue to a resource creates opportunities for social enterprise and jobs.
- Recognizing and promoting waste material as a resource
- We must be aware of changing markets and their impact on the production of waste. Example switch of televisions to digital technologies creates lots of old T.V. waste.
- We need to consider getting rid of the term "waste"
- The concept of "no more away" (throw away)
- Much of the 'waste' industry and the new recycling industries have health implications that must be taken into account.

Big Idea: Everything moves energetically from one state to another. We are not producing waste; we are "re-consuming" materials.